



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1987

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EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS FOR JUNE
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THERE WERE 895,600 PERSONS ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN JUNE 1987, REPRESENTING AN INCREASE OF 1.1 PER CENT IN COMPARISON WITH JUNE 1986, ACCORDING TO FIGURES RELEASED TODAY (MONDAY) BY THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, AT 648,700 IN JUNE 1987, WAS 6.2 PER CENT HIGHER THAN IN JUNE 1986.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, AT 204,700, WAS UP BY 8.1 PER CENT.

EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES INCREASED BY 10.8 PER CENT COMPARED WITH JUNE 1986.

A DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE STATISTICS FOR SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY IN JUNE 1987 WERE DERIVED FROM THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL CONDUCTED EVERY QUARTER BY THE DEPARTMENT. THESE SECTORS COVER THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR; AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR. THERE IS A SEPARATE EMPLOYMENT SURVEY COVERING BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES.

THE OVERALL EMPLOYMENT FIGURES FOR JUNE 1987 IN THESE SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, BY COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR JUNE 1986 AND MARCH 1987, ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	PERSONS ENGAGED (EMPLOYMENT) IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE*	
	JUN. 86	MAR. 87	JUN. 87	JUN. 86 ON JUN. 87	MAR. 87 ON JUN. 87
MANUFACTURING	886,100	864,900	895,600	+ 1.1	+ 3.5
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION (MANUAL WORKERS ON SITES ONLY)	64,000	71,800	70,900	+10.8	- 1.3
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	610,800	620,000	648,700	+ 6.2	+ 4.6

/FINANCING,

FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	189,300	197,200	204,700	+ 8.1	+ 3.8
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* BASED ON UNROUNDED EMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

COMPARING JUNE 1987 WITH MARCH 1987, EMPLOYMENT IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR; AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR INCREASED BY 3.5 PER CENT, 4.6 PER CENT AND 3.8 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, EMPLOYMENT ON BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION SITES DECREASED BY 1.3 PER CENT. THIS DECREASE IS PARTLY SEASONAL AND PARTLY DUE TO CHANGES IN STAGE OF WORK IN SOME SITES.

THE SURVEY ALSO PROVIDES VACANCY STATISTICS FOR THESE SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS, OTHER THAN FOR BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION. THE OVERALL FIGURES BY SELECTED MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTORS, TOGETHER WITH A COMPARISON WITH THE CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR JUNE 1986 AND MARCH 1987, ARE AS FOLLOWS:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES IN			PERCENTAGE CHANGE*	
	JUN. 86	MAR. 87	JUN. 87	JUN. 86 ON JUN. 86	JUN. 87 ON MAR. 87
MANUFACTURING	22,840	47,790	42,300	+ 85.2	- 11.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	7,070	16,000	14,850	+109.9	- 7.2
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	2,550	5,280	5,940	+132.5	+ 12.5

* BASED ON UNROUNDED VACANCY FIGURES.

RELATIVE TO JUNE 1986, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR INCREASED BY 85.2 PER CENT, 109.9 PER CENT AND 132.5 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY.

COMPARED WITH MARCH 1987, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES DECREASED BY 11.5 PER CENT AND 7.2 PER CENT FOR THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; AND THE WHOLESALE, RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR, RESPECTIVELY. THIS DECREASE IS A REGULAR SEASONAL PHENOMENON, AS PART OF VACANCIES ARE FILLED BY SUMMER WORKERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NUMBER OF REPORTED VACANCIES INCREASED BY 12.5 PER CENT FOR THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR.

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM THE SURVEY ARE STATISTICS ON MONTHLY PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR; AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR. QUARTERLY TOTALS FOR EACH OF THESE SECTORS ARE SHOWN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLE:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	TOTAL QUARTERLY PAYROLL IN		% CHANGE*
	2ND QTR. 1986	2ND QTR. 1987	2ND QTR. 1987 ON 2ND QTR. 1986
	HK\$ MN	HK\$ MN	
MANUFACTURING	7,733	8,815	+14.0
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	5,754	6,701	+16.5
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	2,996	3,622	+20.9

* BASED ON UNROUNDED PAYROLL FIGURES.

/COMPARED WITH

COMPARED WITH THE SAME QUARTER A YEAR AGO, PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN THE ABOVE THREE SECTORS INCREASED BY 14.0 PER CENT, 16.5 PER CENT AND 20.9 PER CENT RESPECTIVELY IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF 1987.

AFTER ADJUSTMENT FOR VARIATIONS IN TOTAL MONTHLY PAYROLL OUTLAYS IN JUNE 1986 AND JUNE 1987, ARISING FROM CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT, A NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IS OBTAINED. TO ALLOW FOR THE EFFECTS OF PRICE CHANGES, THE NOMINAL INDEX IS DEFLATED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (A) TO GIVE THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED. THESE TWO INDICES FOR JUNE 1986 AND JUNE 1987 ARE GIVEN IN THE TABLES BELOW:

SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100)		% CHANGE
	JUN. 86	JUN. 87	JUN. 87 ON JUN. 86
MANUFACTURING	208.5	236.6	+13.5
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	209.5	231.2	+10.4
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	210.8	237.8	+12.8

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SELECTED MAJOR SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY	REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED (JUNE 1980 = 100)		% CHANGE
	JUN. 86	JUN. 87	JUN. 87 ON JUN. 86
MANUFACTURING	128.2	137.6	+ 7.3
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS	128.8	134.4	+ 4.3
FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES	129.6	138.3	+ 6.7

BETWEEN JUNE 1986 AND JUNE 1987, INCREASES OF 13.5 PER CENT, 10.4 PER CENT AND 12.8 PER CENT WERE REGISTERED IN THE NOMINAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR; THE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADES, AND RESTAURANTS AND HOTELS SECTOR; AND THE FINANCING, INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE AND BUSINESS SERVICES SECTOR, RESPECTIVELY. OVER THE SAME PERIOD, THE CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN THE REAL INDEX OF PAYROLL PER PERSON ENGAGED WERE 7.3 PER CENT, 4.3 PER CENT AND 6.7 PER CENT.

DETAILED BREAKDOWNS OF THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE QUARTERLY REPORT OF EMPLOYMENT, VACANCIES AND PAYROLL STATISTICS, JUNE 1987, WHICH IS AVAILABLE AT HK\$11 PER COPY AT THE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS CENTRE, GENERAL POST OFFICE BUILDING, GROUND FLOOR, CONNAUGHT PLACE, HONG KONG AND AT THE SALES COUNTER OF THE CENSUS AND STATISTICS DEPARTMENT AT 19TH FLOOR, WANCHAI TOWER I, 12 HARBOUR ROAD, WAN CHAI, HONG KONG.

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AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES COMMENDED

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FOR THE PAST 37 YEARS MEMBERS OF THE AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES (AMS) HAVE MADE A CONSISTENTLY SELFLESS AND UNSTINTING CONTRIBUTION TO THE WELFARE OF OUR COMMUNITY, THE GOVERNOR, SIR DAVID WILSON, SAID TONIGHT (MONDAY).

SPEAKING AT THE AMS OFFICERS MESS DINNER, SIR DAVID SAID THE AMS PERFORMED A VITAL ROLE IN THE MEDICAL CIVIL DEFENCE IN HONG KONG AND SUCH CONTRIBUTIONS WERE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

"IT IS ALSO REASSURING FOR THE COMMUNITY TO KNOW THAT 6,000 DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN STAND READY TO AUGMENT MEDICAL AND AMBULANCE SERVICES IN TIMES OF NEED," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID NOTED THAT MEMBERS OF THE SERVICES HAD BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN LIFE GUARD, FIRST AID AND AMBULANCE DUTIES. BESIDES, THEY HAD ALSO ASSISTED IN REFUGEE AND METHADONE CLINIC ASSIGNMENTS.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE AMS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THE YEARS AHEAD. I AM SURE TOO THAT YOU WILL MEET YOUR CHALLENGES WITH THE SAME DEVOTION, EFFICIENCY AND CHEERFULNESS AS YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN THE PAST," SIR DAVID SAID.

SIR DAVID ALSO CONGRATULATED AMS MEMBERS ON THEIR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE PAST YEAR AND THANKED THEM ALL FOR WHAT THEY HAD DONE.

MEANWHILE, IN HIS WELCOMING ADDRESS, THE COMMISSIONER OF AUXILIARY MEDICAL SERVICES, DR K.L. THONG, SAID IT IS BOTH PRIVILEGE AND HONOUR TO HAVE SIR DAVID AT THE MESS DINNER FOR THE FIRST TIME.

DR THONG SAID IT IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION FOR AMS OFFICERS TO MEET THE GOVERNOR IN PERSON IN RELAXED AND CONGENIAL SURROUNDINGS.

"ON BEHALF OF THE AMS, I SHOULD LIKE TO THANK SIR DAVID MOST WARMLY FOR HIS DEEP PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE AMS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE YEARS OF HIS GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT," HE SAID.

SPEAKING ON THE AMS, DR THONG SAID SINCE ITS INCEPTION 37 YEARS AGO, THE SERVICES HAD PROGRESSED AND DEVELOPED FROM LESS THAN 2,000 VOLUNTEERS IN 1950 INTO THE PRESENT MEDICAL CIVIL DEFENCE FORCE OF NEARLY 6,000 TRAINED MEMBERS.

DURING THE 12-MONTH PERIOD ENDING APRIL, 1987, THE MEMBERS HAD SPENT 108,896 MAN-HOURS IN PROVIDING FIRST-AID COVERAGE AT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS AND COUNTRY PARKS.

ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND SUNDAYS, 23,232 MAN-HOURS WERE SPENT ON MANNING AMBULANCES AND A FURTHER 5,008 MAN-HOURS WERE SPENT BY AMS MEMBERS WHO WERE DRIVERS OF AMBULANCES.

SOME 160 MEMBERS AND GUESTS ATTENDED TONIGHT'S DINNER.

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LAB DISCUSSES LABOUR LEGISLATION IMPROVEMENTS

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THE LABOUR ADVISORY BOARD MET TODAY (MONDAY) TO DISCUSS SEVERAL ISSUES RELATING TO LABOUR MATTERS AND LEGISLATION.

MEMBERS FIRST LOOKED INTO THE PNEUMOCONIOSIS (COMPENSATION) ORDINANCE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION AND AGREED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF ADVANCE PAYMENT WHICH CAN BE MADE TO A PNEUMOCONIOTIC PERSON OR HIS DEPENDANTS FROM \$1,000 TO \$20,000.

THE BOARD ALSO ENDORSED A PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE ANNUAL LICENCE FEE FOR EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES FROM \$400 TO \$500 UNDER THE EMPLOYMENT AGENCY REGULATIONS AND THAT THE FEE WOULD BE REVIEWED EVERY TWO YEARS IN FUTURE.

IN ADDITION, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE MAXIMUM FEE WHICH COULD BE CHARGED BY AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY FROM A JOB SEEKER ON FIRST REGISTRATION AND SUBSEQUENT RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION SHOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$3 TO \$5. THE FIRST REGISTRATION FEE TO BE CHARGED FROM AN EMPLOYER WOULD BE INCREASED FROM \$10 TO \$35 AND THAT FOR SUBSEQUENT RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION FROM \$5 TO \$20.

MEMBERS ALSO ENDORSED A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS TO AMEND THE BOILERS AND PRESSURE RECEIVERS ORDINANCE TO BRING IT UP TO DATE AND CLOSER IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED STANDARDS AND PRACTICE.

THE BOARD FURTHER SUPPORTED A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE EMPLOYMENT ORDINANCE TO THE EFFECT THAT WHEN THERE IS A WRITTEN CONTRACT, THE EMPLOYER MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF THE CONTRACT TO THE EMPLOYEE SO AS TO AVOID DISPUTES WHICH MIGHT ARISE OUT OF MISUNDERSTANDING AND UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THEIR TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT.

THE BOARD ALSO NOTED A REPORT ON HONG KONG'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 73RD SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN JUNE THIS YEAR.

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ENTRY SCHEME FOR MACAU RESIDENTS

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THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCED TODAY (MONDAY) THAT EX-CHINA RESIDENTS OF MACAU WHO ARE MARRIED TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS AND WHOSE MACAU IDENTITY CARDS WERE ISSUED IN MAY, JUNE AND JULY 1980 MAY APPLY (TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN) TO JOIN THEIR HUSBANDS IN HONG KONG.

EX-CHINA RESIDENTS OF MACAU WHO ARE MARRIED TO HONG KONG RESIDENTS AND WHOSE MACAU IDENTITY CARDS WERE ISSUED BETWEEN JANUARY AND JULY 1980 MAY ALSO APPLY (TOGETHER WITH THEIR CHILDREN) TO JOIN THEIR WIVES IN HONG KONG.

/APPLICATIONS CAN

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APPLICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED FROM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, BY THE HONG KONG SPONSORS IN PERSON TO THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT, 61 MODY ROAD, TSIM SHA TSUI EAST, KOWLOON.

ANYONE WISHING TO MAKE ENQUIRIES ABOUT THIS ENTRY SCHEME MAY TELEPHONE THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION OFFICE AT 3-7333126.

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HIGHER INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES

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THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE PUBLISHED TODAY (MONDAY) CONTAINS A LEGAL NOTICE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY HAS AUTHORISED AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF INTEREST PAYABLE ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES. AS FROM OCTOBER 14, 1987, THE NEW ANNUAL RATE OF INTEREST WILL BE 5.28 PER CENT (TAX FREE) AS AGAINST THE CURRENT RATE OF 4.32 PER CENT (TAX FREE).

INTEREST ON TAX RESERVE CERTIFICATES IS CALCULATED IN MONTHLY STEPS AND THE NEW RATE WILL BE \$0.44 PER MONTH PER \$100. INTEREST WILL BE CREDITED AS BEFORE IN RESPECT OF COMPLETE MONTHS BETWEEN PURCHASE AND SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX.

INTEREST IS ONLY CREDITED WHEN CERTIFICATES ARE USED TO PAY TAX AND NO INTEREST IS DUE WHERE THE PRINCIPAL VALUE OF A CERTIFICATE IS REPAID BY A CHEQUE.

THE NEW RATE WILL APPLY TO ALL CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 14, 1987.

CERTIFICATES WHICH WERE ISSUED BEFORE OCTOBER 14, 1987 WILL CONTINUE TO EARN INTEREST AS FOLLOWS:-

- 4.08% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 22, 1985 AND BEFORE JUNE 27, 1985;
- 3.60% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 27, 1985 AND BEFORE JULY 17, 1985;
- 3.36% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 17, 1985 AND BEFORE JULY 23, 1985;
- 2.76% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JULY 23, 1985 AND BEFORE SEPTEMBER 4, 1985;

/3.36%

- 3.36% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 4, 1985 AND BEFORE APRIL 3, 1986;
- 4.32% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 3, 1986 AND BEFORE MAY 14, 1986;
- 4.08% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MAY 14, 1986 AND BEFORE AUGUST 19, 1986;
- 3.36% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER AUGUST 19, 1986 AND BEFORE JANUARY 19, 1987;
- 2.52% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 19, 1987 AND BEFORE MARCH 4, 1987;
- 3.00% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER MARCH 4, 1987 AND BEFORE APRIL 9, 1987;
- 3.36% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER APRIL 9, 1987 AND BEFORE JUNE 4, 1987;
- 3.84% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 4, 1987 AND BEFORE JUNE 24, 1987;
- 4.32% PER ANNUM FOR CERTIFICATES ISSUED ON OR AFTER JUNE 24, 1987 AND BEFORE OCTOBER 14, 1987,

BUT ALWAYS SUBJECT TO THE GENERAL RULE THAT INTEREST CEASES TO ACCRUE AFTER 36 COMPLETE MONTHS WITHOUT SURRENDER FOR PAYMENT OF TAX.

EXAMPLE: \$1,000 CERTIFICATES PURCHASED ON OCTOBER 14, 1987, NOVEMBER 14, 1987 AND DECEMBER 14, 1987 RESPECTIVELY, SURRENDER IN PAYMENT OF TAX DUE ON JANUARY 13, 1988 WILL HAVE INTEREST CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS -

ON \$1,000, OCTOBER 14, 1987 TO JANUARY 13, 1988 THREE COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$4.40 PER MONTH	=	13.20
ON \$1,000, NOVEMBER 14, 1987 TO JANUARY 13, 1988 TWO COMPLETE MONTHS AT \$4.40 PER MONTH	=	8.80
ON \$1,000, DECEMBER 14, 1987 TO JANUARY 13, 1988 ONE COMPLETE MONTH AT \$4.40 PER MONTH	=	4.40

		\$26.40
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ANOTHER DRY MONTH IN SEPTEMBER

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FOLLOWING A DRY AUGUST, THE TOTAL RAINFALL IN SEPTEMBER WAS AGAIN BELOW NORMAL. THE RAINFALL AMOUNT OF 158.3 MILLIMETRES REPRESENTED ONLY 49 PER CENT OF THE NORMAL SEPTEMBER AMOUNT OF 320.4 MILLIMETRES. HOWEVER, THE CUMULATIVE RAINFALL OF 2,179.6 MILLIMETRES SINCE JANUARY 1 IS STILL SEVEN PER CENT ABOVE NORMAL.

THE LOW RAINFALL AMOUNT LAST MONTH MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SCARCITY OF TROPICAL CYCLONES AFFECTING THE SOUTH CHINA COAST. ONLY TYPHOON GERALD POSED A THREAT TO HONG KONG DURING THE MONTH AND NECESSITATED THE HOISTING OF THE STAND-BY SINGAL NO. 1.

SINCE 1956, WHEN THE TROPICAL CYCLONE WARNING SIGNAL NO. 3 WAS INTRODUCED, THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR IN WHICH NO SUCH SIGNAL HAS BEEN HOISTED, UP TO THE END OF SEPTEMBER.

THE FEWER THAN NORMAL TROPICAL CYCLONES OVER THE SOUTH CHINA COAST RESULTED IN HONG KONG'S HIGH MEAN ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE OF 1,010.6 HPA FOR THE MONTH, THE THIRD HIGHEST ON RECORD FOR SEPTEMBER.

ON SEPTEMBER 1, A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE BROUGHT SOME ISOLATED SHOWERS TO HONG KONG. SHOWERS CONTINUED TO AFFECT THE TERRITORY ON SEPTEMBER 2 AND 3. ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS ALSO OCCURRED ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 3.

THE WEATHER REMAINED GENERALLY CLOUDY BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 4 AND 7, BUT NO RAINFALL WAS RECORDED EXCEPT A TRACE DURING THE EARLY MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 7.

THE WEATHER BECAME FINE ON SEPTEMBER 8 WHILE TYPHOON GERALD WAS APPROACHING FROM THE EAST. ON SEPTEMBER 9 GERALD ENTERED THE BASHI CHANNEL AND POSED A THREAT TO HONG KONG. THE STAND-BY SINGAL NO. 1 WAS HOISTED AT NOON. A MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE OF 32.3 DEGREES CELSIUS WAS RECORDED THAT DAY, THE HIGHEST OF THE MONTH. ON SEPTEMBER 10, WINDS OFFSHORE BEGAN TO FRESHEN FROM THE NORTH AND REACHED A MAXIMUM SPEED OF 47 KM/H AT WAGLAN ISLAND BY THE AFTERNOON. GUSTS OF OVER 65 KM/H WERE ALSO RECORDED.

ON SEPTEMBER 10, GERALD TOOK ON A MORE NORTHWESTERLY TRACK AND WAS NO LONGER THREATENING HONG KONG. THE STAND-BY SIGNAL NO. 1 WAS LOWERED AT 11 AM. ALTHOUGH THE SKY REMAINED CLOUDY, NO RAINFALL WAS RECORDED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12 WHEN ISOLATED SHOWERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REMNANTS OF GERALD FELL OVER HONG KONG.

/BETWEEN SEPTEMBER

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BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 13 AND 24, MODERATE EASTERLY WINDS PREVAILED OVER HONG KONG BUT THEY WERE OCCASIONALLY FRESH OFFSHORE. THE WEATHER THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD WAS GENERALLY CLOUDY WITH INTERMITTENT SHOWERS. SOME OF THESE SHOWERS WERE QUITE INTENSE BUT ISOLATED. FOR EXAMPLE, SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 21, A HEAVY DOWNPOUR BROUGHT OVER 50 MILLIMETRES OF RAIN TO THE ROYAL OBSERVATORY BUT ONLY A FEW MILLIMETRES WERE RECORDED OVER THE WESTERN PART OF THE NEW TERRITORIES. THE HEAVY RAINFALL CAUSED SOME MINOR FLOODING IN THE URBAN AREAS.

ON SEPTEMBER 25, A TROUGH OF LOW PRESSURE FORMED OVER CENTRAL CHINA AND BEGAN TO MOVE SOUTHWARDS. THIS TROUGH BECAME A COLD FRONT LATER IN THE DAY AND REACHED THE SOUTH CHINA COAST THAT NIGHT. SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS ON SEPTEMBER 25 HERALDED THE PASSAGE OF THIS COLD FRONT THROUGH HONG KONG. THE TEMPERATURE ALSO DROPPED TO 21.7 DEGREES CELSIUS ON THE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 26, WHICH IS THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE RECORDED SO FAR THIS AUTUMN.

NORTHERLY WINDS, CLOUDY SKIES AND SOME RAIN KEPT THE TEMPERATURES DOWN ON SEPTEMBER 26. WITH THE WINDS TURNING TO EASTERLY ON SEPTEMBER 27, TEMPERATURES GRADUALLY CLIMBED TO NEAR-NORMAL VALUES DURING THE REMAINING FOUR DAYS OF THE MONTH. THE WEATHER REMAINED CLOUDY THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD WITH SOME LIGHT RAIN.

A TOTAL OF SEVEN TROPICAL CYCLONES OCCURRED OVER THE WESTERN NORTH PACIFIC DURING SEPTEMBER.

DURING THE MONTH, NO AIRCRAFT WAS DIVERTED FROM HONG KONG DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER. THUNDERSTORM WARNINGS WERE ISSUED ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2, 3, 6, 18, 21, 22, 24 AND 25.

THE ONLY SIGNAL HOISTED DURING THE MONTH WAS AS FOLLOWS:

WEATHER SYSTEM	SIGNAL	DATE AND TIME OF HOISTING	DATE AND TIME OF LOWERING
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TYPHOON GERALD	1	SEPTEMBER 9, 12 NOON	SEPTEMBER 10, 11 AM

THE MONTH'S FIGURES AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE:

SUNSHINE	153.1 HOURS ; 35.4 HOURS BELOW NORMAL
GLOBAL SOLAR RADIATION	14.04 MJ/SQUARE METRE ; 2.78 MJ/SQUARE METRE BELOW NORMAL
RAINFALL	158.3 MM ; 162.1 MM BELOW NORMAL

/CLOUDINESS

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CLOUDINESS	70 PER CENT ; 8 PER CENT MORE THAN NORMAL
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	79 PER CENT ; NORMAL
MEAN MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	29.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 1.3 DEGREES CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN TEMPERATURE	27.3 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.2 DEGREE CELSIUS BELOW NORMAL
MEAN MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	25.7 DEGREES CELSIUS ; 0.5 DEGREE CELSIUS ABOVE NORMAL
MEAN DEW POINT	23.2 DEGREES CELSIUS ; NORMAL
TOTAL EVAPORATION	122.3 MM ; 34.8 MM BELOW NORMAL

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COURTHOUSE TO BE BUILT AT SAI WAN HO
* * * * *

THE ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT IS INVITING TENDERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A 16-STORY EASTERN MAGISTRACY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING ON THE SAI WAN HO RECLAMATION.

THE MAGISTRACY WILL HAVE A TOTAL OF EIGHT COURTROOMS, INCLUDING TWO DISTRICT COURTS, A JUVENILE COURT AND A SMALL CLAIMS COURT.

ELEVEN FLOORS OF THE BUILDING WILL BE USED AS GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND CAR PARK.

THERE WILL BE A TOTAL FLOOR AREA OF ABOUT 26,000 SQUARE METRES.

WORK ON THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO START IN JANUARY AND BE COMPLETED IN APRIL, 1990.

CLOSING DATE FOR TENDERS IS NOON ON OCTOBER 30.

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SENSE OF BELONGING STRONG AMONG EASTERN DISTRICT RESIDENTS

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ACCORDING TO A SURVEY ON THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY CONDUCTED IN EASTERN DISTRICT BY AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH COMPANY, THERE IS A STRONG SENSE OF BELONGING AMONG THE RESIDENTS.

ANNOUNCING THE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY (MONDAY), THE SURVEY'S WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN, MR MAN SAI-CHEONG, SAID THAT THE PRIMARY AIM OF THE SURVEY WAS TO ASSESS COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY PROMOTED BY THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD AND TO IDENTIFY NEW TARGETS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF RESIDENTS' LIVELIHOOD.

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATES (HK) LTD., MR RAYMOND LIANG, SAID THE MAJORITY OF RESIDENTS LIKED TO LIVE IN THE DISTRICT, BUT FELT THE DISTRICT NEEDED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS AND MORE LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

"GENERALLY SPEAKING, THERE IS A LOW LEVEL OF AWARENESS IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES ORGANISED BY THE DISTRICT BOARD, AS A RESULT, THE PERCENTAGE OF PARTICIPATION IS POOR," MR LIANG SAID.

"THE FINDINGS INDICATE THAT THERE ARE TWO DIFFERENT KINDS OF INTEREST GROUPS, NAMELY YOUNGER AGE GROUP AND OLDER AGE GROUP.

"THE YOUNGER AGE GROUP WANTS THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD TO PROMOTE SPORTS, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, WHILE THE OLDER AGE GROUP ARE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT CRIME PREVENTION AND WAYS TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVING ENVIRONMENT.

"THE SURVEY SHOWS A NEED ON THE PART OF THE DISTRICT BOARD TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION TO RESIDENTS ABOUT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND WHETHER THE BOARD CAN HELP TO PROVIDE LEISURE AND RECREATION FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS," MR LIANG CONCLUDED.

RESPONDING TO THE SURVEY FINDINGS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE OF THE EDB, MR ERIC LI, URGED LOCAL RESIDENTS TO TAKE PART IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT FESTIVAL WHICH WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER AND TO VOTE IN THE DISTRICT BOARD ELECTIONS NEXT YEAR.

REFERRING TO PROBLEMS SUCH AS ENVIRONMENTAL, TRAFFIC, MEDICAL SERVICES AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, MR LI SAID THAT THE EASTERN DISTRICT BOARD HAD ALREADY MONITORED THE SITUATIONS CLOSELY AND REFLECTED RESIDENTS' VIEWS TO THE DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED.

"THE COMING COMMUNITY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING WILL DISCUSS THE SURVEY REPORT AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DISTRICT BOARD AND ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED FOR CONSIDERATIONS," MR LI SAID.

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CHARITY WALK TO PROMOTE INTEGRATION

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THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT BOARD AND THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT WILL ORGANISE A CHARITY WALK ON NOVEMBER 22 TO PROMOTE INTEGRATION BETWEEN THE DISABLED AND THE ABLE-BODIED AND TO RAISE FUNDS FOR LOW-INCOME SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES OF THE DISTRICT.

THE CHARITY WALK, TO BE HELD AT THE SHING MUN COUNTRY PARK, IS OPEN TO ABLE-BODIED, PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND MENTALLY RETARDED PEOPLE.

RESIDENTS, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, COMMERCIAL ORGANISATIONS AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THE CHARITY WALK OR SPONSOR OTHER PARTICIPANTS.

SOUVENIRS WILL BE PRESENTED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE SECURED A SPONSORSHIP OF OVER \$1,000 AND ORGANISATIONS WHICH RAISE MORE THAN \$5,000.

SPONSORSHIP FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE KWAI TSING DISTRICT OFFICE AND ITS SEVEN SUB-OFFICES, AND THE OFFICE OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AT LEVEL 4, TSUEN WAN FERRY PIER.

THE CHARITY WALK IS ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE DISTRICT'S REHABILITATIVE SERVICES PROMOTING PROGRAMME ORGANISED BETWEEN JULY AND DECEMBER THIS YEAR.

OTHER ACTIVITIES, ALL CENTRING ROUND THE INTEGRATION CONCEPT, INCLUDE ESSAY COMPETITION, CARNIVAL, EXHIBITION AND VISITS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS FOR THE DISABLED.

RESIDENTS MAY CALL 0-273593 FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF THE CHARITY WALK AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.

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MEMBERS BRIEFED ON SAI KUNG CLINIC FACILITIES

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MEMBERS OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD'S COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFED ON FACILITIES OF THE SAI KUNG MONA FONG CLINIC TOMORROW (TUESDAY).

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MEDICAL AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT, NEW TERRITORIES (EAST), WILL GIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE CLINIC.

SITUATED AT MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN, THE CLINIC IS A FOUR-STOREY BUILDING WHICH IS EXPECTED TO COMMENCE OPERATION IN EARLY 1988.

/OTHER ITEMS

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OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE APPLICATIONS FOR DISTRICT BOARD FUNDS AND REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE MEETING TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 10 AM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE SAI KUNG DISTRICT BOARD, SECOND FLOOR, SAI KUNG GOVERNMENT OFFICES, MAN NIN STREET, SAI KUNG TOWN.

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TUEN MUN SURVEY ON DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

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THE TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICE CARRIED OUT A SURVEY IN JULY TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH LOCAL RESIDENTS KNOW ABOUT THE OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT BOARD SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION SCHEME IN 1981.

THE SURVEY COVERS SUCH AREAS AS THE RESIDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, DISTRICT BOARD ELECTOR REGISTRATION RATE AND ELECTIONS, RESIDENTS' VIEWS ON THE ABILITY OF THE DISTRICT BOARD TO SOLVE LOCAL PROBLEMS AS WELL AS URGENT PROBLEMS IN TUEN MUN.

ACTING TUEN MUN DISTRICT OFFICER, MR EDWARD YAU, WILL MEET MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN THE DISTRICT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) TO ANNOUNCE FINDINGS OF THE SURVEY.

ALSO PRESENT WILL BE THE CONSULTANTS OF THE SURVEY, MR CHEUNG KWOK-HING OF THE SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND MR CHAN TUN-LEONG OF THE SALVATION ARMY BUTTERFLY YOUTH CENTRE.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE BRIEFING SESSION ON THE SURVEY TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT 2.30 PM IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE DISTRICT BOARD SECRETARIAT ON THE THIRD FLOOR, TUEN MUN GOVERNMENT OFFICES BUILDING, NO. 1, TUEN HI ROAD.

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RELOCATION OF THA IN MA ON SHAN

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THE SHA TIN DISTRICT BOARD'S DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE WILL MEET TOMORROW (TUESDAY) MORNING TO DISCUSS A PLAN TO RELOCATE THE PROPOSED TEMPORARY HOUSING AREA NEAR TAI SHUI HANG (AREA 82) TO A SITE ADJACENT TO HENG ON AND YIU ON ESTATES (AREA 92) IN MA ON SHAN.

IN THE JUNE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, MEMBERS AGREED TO THE ORIGINALLY PROPOSED SITE. HOWEVER, LATER DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS CAME TO LIGHT THAT AREA 82 SHOULD BETTER BE USED FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN FOR THA AND AREA 92 WAS PROPOSED AS REPLACEMENT.

MEANWHILE, DB MEMBER, MR CHOY KAN-PUI, WILL ASK ABOUT GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO SOLVE THE FLUSHING PROBLEM IN VILLAGE HOUSES.

ANOTHER MEMBER, MR LAU KONG-WAH, WILL ASK IF THE HOUSING DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE MEASURES TO COPE WITH THE INCREASING ELECTRICITY DEMAND IN PUBLIC HOUSING ESTATES, AND ABOUT CHANGES IN COMPLAINT CHANNELS RESULTING FROM THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE HOUSING BRANCH AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INCLUDE NOTES OF MEETINGS OF THE PUBLIC HOUSING WORKING GROUP AND CONCERN OF TEMPORARY HOUSING GROUP, PROPOSED MINOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND APPLICATION FOR FUNDS.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

YOU ARE INVITED TO COVER THE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD AT 9.30 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY) AT THE DB CONFERENCE ROOM ON 6/F, KCR HOUSE, SHA TIN STATION.

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RETIRING MARINE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR COMMENDED

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THE DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR GERRY HIGGINSON, PRESENTED A RETIREMENT GIFT TO THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF MARINE, MR P.J. WU, ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT AT A CEREMONY THIS (MONDAY) AFTERNOON.

THE BRIEF BUT WELL-ATTENDED CEREMONY MARKED THE RETIREMENT OF MR WU AFTER 26 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

/SPEAKING AT

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SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION, MR HIGGINSON PRAISED MR WU FOR HIS LONG AND LOYAL SERVICE AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION AND DEDICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT.

"MR WU'S IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY IN HONG KONG, AND INDEED IN CHINA, WILL BE SORELY MISSED," MR HIGGINSON SAID. "HE HAS GIVEN OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT."

MR WU JOINED THE MARINE DEPARTMENT IN 1961 AS MARINE OFFICER - THE FIRST EVER LOCAL MARINE OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT. AFTER A SERIES OF PROMOTIONS HE BECAME ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IN 1980. IN 1979, MR WU PLAYED A VITAL ROLE DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE INFLUX FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED THE GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATION.

MR WU IS AT PRESENT ON PRE-RETIREMENT LEAVE.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS AT LAM TIN

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FROM 10 AM TOMORROW (TUESDAY), THE FOLLOWING TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO FACILITATE WATER MAINS LAYING WORKS:

- * THE WESTBOUND TRAFFIC LANE OF KAI TIN ROAD BETWEEN ITS JUNCTION WITH PING TIN STREET AND A POINT ABOUT 120 METRES WEST OF THE SAME JUNCTION WILL BE CLOSED;
- * LEUNG TIN LANE WILL BE RE-ROUTED FROM TWO-WAY TRAFFIC TO ONE-WAY WESTBOUND;
- * ALL LEARNER DRIVERS WILL BE BANNED FROM KAI TIN ROAD;
- * VEHICLES TRAVELLING ON KAI TIN ROAD WESTBOUND EAST OF PING TIN STREET TOWARDS JUNK BAY ROAD AND KAI TIN ROAD WEST OF TAK TIN STREET WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PING TIN STREET, LEUNG TIN LANE AND TAK TIN STREET;
- * KMB ROUTES 15, 15A, 15B AND 15X ON THE JOURNEYS TO LAM TIN (NORTH) BUS TERMINUS WILL BE DIVERTED VIA KAI TIN ROAD, PING TIN STREET, LEUNG TIN LANE AND TAK TIN STREET;
- * KMB ROUTE 16 ON THE JOURNEYS TO TAI KOK TSUI WILL BE DIVERTED VIA PING TIN STREET, LEUNG TIN LANE, TAK TIN STREET AND KAI TIN ROAD.

THESE TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN FORCE FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS.

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TUEN MUN WATER CUT

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FRESH WATER SUPPLY TO CERTAIN PREMISES IN TUEN MUN WILL BE TURNED OFF ON THURSDAY (OCTOBER 15) FROM 10 PM TO 8 AM THE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WATER MAINS WORK.

THE PREMISES AFFECTED ARE AT TAI LAM CHUNG ROAD, INCLUDING THE SEAMEN'S AND CUSTOMS AND EXCISE TRAINING SCHOOLS, TAI LAM FIRE STATION, TAI LAM CHUNG, WONG UK, TAI LAM CHUNG TSUEN AND TAI LAM CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION.

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WATER STORAGE FIGURE

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STORAGE IN HONG KONG'S RESERVOIRS AT 9 AM TODAY (MONDAY) STOOD AT 71.1 PER CENT OF CAPACITY OR 416.637 MILLION CUBIC METRES.

THIS TIME LAST YEAR THE RESERVOIRS CONTAINED 400.562 MILLION CUBIC METRES OF WATER, REPRESENTING 68.3 PER CENT OF CAPACITY.

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